

Fostering Student Involvement

Like many parents, Patty F. had difficulty getting her son, Zach, to open up about his hopes and dreams, making the college search that much harder. Though he wasn't sure which college would be right for him, Zach thought he'd be happiest out of state, away from cold Minnesota winters.

A friend recommended Patty and her son meet with College Connectors to make a confident decision on the right college for Zach. "I didn't know anything about out-of-state colleges and wasn't comfortable doing that research alone," Patty said. "The best thing for me to do was step aside and let Zach make his own decision with the help of college planning experts."

Taking Action

College Connectors started by learning as much as possible about Zach. Through a series of one-on-one interviews and questionnaires, Leah Holmberg helped Zach consider his strengths, interests and goals, as well as what type of college experience he was looking for. More importantly, the process taught Zach how to make calculated decisions about his future.

After months of consideration, Zach decided to prepare for a career in medicine, fulfilling a dream he's had since childhood. He also decided that he wanted to attend a private college with a good reputation. And he realized he didn't want to leave Minnesota after all.

"Leah really worked well with Zach, sometimes for hours at a time," Patty said. "He felt very comfortable talking with Leah and really opened up to her. I think sometimes kids have an easier time talking with people other than their parents."

Next Leah identified the top five colleges that fit Zach's "ideal college" profile. She arranged for Zach and Patty to visit each one and helped them evaluate each financial aid package. In addition, she guided them through the entire financial aid process and helped to identify sources of financial aid.

The Result

Zach chose to apply to the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. A few weeks later, he received an acceptance letter in the mail. He is now enrolled in the college's pre-med program.

"I highly recommend College Connectors because it takes a lot of pressure off parents," Patty said. "Leah and Valerie are very professional. They're experts at engaging students and helping them make the right choice about where to go to school."